

For Immediate Release:

June 17, 2008

Contact:

**Michelle McGurk, PIO
Office of Mayor Chuck Reed
(408) 535-4840 or (408) 655-7332 cell**

**San José Council Approves Mayor Reed's Budget,
Focuses on Fiscal Responsibility and Public Safety
*Budget Closes \$29 Million Deficit, Adds 25 New Police Officers,
\$1.5 Million for Gang Programs, \$1.2 Million for Traffic Calming***

SAN JOSE – The San José City Council gave near unanimous approval of Mayor Chuck Reed's 2008-2009 Budget Message today, closing a \$29 million budget gap without laying off staff and with a significant new investment in public safety.

"Even in tough budget times, we must make every effort to keep our residents safe. The City Council today made a down-payment towards adding 100 new officers over the next four years," Mayor Reed said. "Together, we are making crucial investments in growing our police force, preventing our youth from joining gangs, and keeping our residents safe from speeding and unsafe cars in our neighborhoods."

The Council voted 10-1 to add the following critical public safety items:

- 25 new police officers (in addition to those hired to replace those retire or leave the force)
- \$1,535,207 million in gang prevention and intervention programs, including \$1 million in ongoing funding for the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force; a summer program to prevent gang activity during the non-school months (\$200,000); a pilot Community Responsibility Council for youth offenders in partnership with Santa Clara County (\$100,000); reinstatement of Crime Prevention staff and the Challenges and Choices youth program (\$185,207); and truancy abatement programs (\$50,000).
- Camera-surveillance in hot spots for property crimes and auto theft throughout the City (\$84,000).
- Increase efficiencies in police operations by investing in technology to automate field reporting and manage records (\$3 million).
- Funds to complete Fire Station 37 (\$800,000), which will allow time to re-evaluate the proposed closure of Fire Station 6.

Earlier in the day, the City Council unanimously voted to make it easier for neighborhoods to implement programs to slow traffic on residential streets. The public safety budget reflected their concerns for safety in neighborhoods and around schools and added \$920,000 for traffic calming to the \$300,000 budgeted by the City Manager.

Mayor Reed's Budget Message also reinstated funding for school crossing guards (\$313,096) that the City Manager had proposed to eliminate.

San José, like many other California cities, is experiencing a structural budget deficit. Even though revenues are increasing, the growth in the cost of providing the same services exceeds the growth in revenue. Over the next three years, the structural budget is projected at \$115 million. A Three-Year Structural Budget Deficit Stakeholder Group is analyzing alternatives for eliminating the structural deficit and will bring recommendations to the Council in the fall. On June 19, the City Council will consider potential taxes or fees that might be placed on the November ballot.

Mayor Reed's June Budget Message is online at www.sanjoseca.gov/mayor.

###